

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 271046Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.
2 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: 212/686-8778
TELEX: 125534 MBM NYK
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6017
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UNCLAS DAMASCUS 451

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BDIS, SY
SUBJ: UNPAID HOTEL BILL - GEORGE RICE, MCKEE INTERNATIONAL

FOR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF AFFAIRS OF MCKEE INTERNATIONAL/
ASSOCIATED BUSINESS CONSULTANTS, BEIRUT, SUBSIDIARY OF
INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., FROM RODERICK M.
WRIGHT, ECONOMIC OFFICER, AMERICAN EMBASSY, DAMASCUS.

1. FOLLOWING JULY/AUGUST 1974 DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR,
EMBASSY PRESENTED WITH SEMIRAMIS HOTEL BILL FOR L.S. 1,300
(\$356.16 AT 3.65) FOR GEORGE RICE DURING PERIOD HE WAS IN
DAMASCUS ON MCKEE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS/PARTICIPATION IN
FAIR. WE REPEATEDLY REQUESTED RICE TO PAY BILL AND HE CON-
TINUOUSLY PROMISED TO DO SO.
2. ON AUGUST 15, 1975, EMBASSY OFFICER VISITED RICE'S BEIRUT
OFFICE, LEFT BILL, AND OBTAINED PROMISE FROM MISS HADDAD THAT
BILL WOULD BE PAID.
3. ON AUGUST 23, ABC/BEIRUT VICE PRESIDENT ALEXANDER D.
SHOMAR INFORMED ME HE HAD STUDIED BILL AND ASSURED ME BILL
WOULD BE PAID AND THAT I WOULD BE SO INFORMED. TO DATE,
SEMIRAMIS HOTEL HAS NOT BEEN PAID AND MATTER BECOMING INCREAS-
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INGLY EMBARRASSING TO EMBASSY WHEN WE ATTEMPT TO MAKE HOTEL

BOOKINGS FOR US GOVT PERSONNEL OR TO ASSIST VISITING AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN FINDING ROOM IN VERY CROWDED DAMASCUS HOTELS.

4. I REALIZE GEORGE RICE IS NO LONGER WITH MCKEE INTERNATIONAL, ACCORDING TO MR. SHOMAR, AND PERHAPS CONDITIONS IN BEIRUT HAVE DELAYED PAYMENT. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT BEITUT OFFICE. HOWEVER, LACK OF PAYMENT IN NEARLY TWO YEARS HAS REFLECTED BADLY ON US BUSINESS IMAGE IN DAMASCUS AND AT CITY'S LARGEST HOTEL.

5. I THEREFORE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR SENDING ME A CHECK FOR \$356.16 MADE OUT TO ME OR TO "AMERICAN EMBASSY, DAMASCUS," WHICH I WILL CONVERT INTO SYRIAN POUNDS, PAY THE BILL AND SEND YOU A CERTIFIED RECEIPT TO ADDRESS YOU INDICATE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION; WE VERY MUCH NEED YOUR RESPONSE. SIGNED R.M. WRIGHT.
MURPHY

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